

**To:** Ferrell, Mark[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]  
**From:** Werner, Lora  
**Sent:** Tue 1/14/2014 9:33:21 PM  
**Subject:** FW: FYI, Press release re Sen Rockefeller letter to Dr Frieden--petition on Freedom Industries, Elk river site  
LTR Senator Rockefeller to EPA and CDC 1.13.14.pdf

For your info Mark, I bet you have this already.

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**From:** Weston, Richard C. (CDC/OD/OADP) [mailto:rtw8@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 3:45 PM  
**To:** Burden, Bernadette (CDC/OD/OADC)  
**Cc:** Hunter, Edward L. (CDC/OD/OADP); Chaney, Sascha (ATSDR/OA/OD); Neurath, Sue (ATSDR/DCHI/OD); Fell, Tiffany K. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Doan, Stephanie (ATSDR/DCHI/OD); Werner, Lora  
**Subject:** FYI, Press release re Sen Rockefeller letter to Dr Frieden--petition on Freedom Industries, Elk river site

Press Release, Jan. 14, 2014

## ROCKEFELLER SEEKING ANSWERS ABOUT LONG-TERM PUBLIC HEALTH EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL SPILL

Senator writes letter to EPA, CDC requesting joint study into long-term health risks of MCHM

WASHINGTON, DC – Nearly a week after a massive chemical spill halted clean water service to nearly 300,000 West Virginians, Senator Jay Rockefeller wants to know just how dangerous the chemical that contaminated the Elk and Kanawha Rivers is.

In a letter written jointly to the heads of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Rockefeller requested a comprehensive study into the long-term public health risks associated with crude 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, or MCHM.

“I am making this request of two separate agencies with the goal that no stone will go unturned, and no jurisdictional confusion will leave any key question unanswered,” Rockefeller wrote. “In the coming weeks and months, the assistance of both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be critical for the long-term well-being of the state of West Virginia and its citizens.”

Rockefeller responded quickly to the spill, and since last week has acted on a number of fronts:

- Immediately following the incident, Rockefeller requested a Chemical Safety Board (CSB) investigation into the root cause of the incident;
- The CSB responded less than 24 hours later, announcing they would send a team to Charleston. That team arrived on Monday, January 13;
- Rockefeller urged colleagues working on a 2014 spending package to boost funding for the CSB, which is over-worked and under-staffed. A more robust funding level for the CSB was included in the omnibus spending bill, which now awaits action by the full Senate.

<http://www.rockefeller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2014/1/rockefeller-seeking-answers-about-long-term-public-health-effects-of-chemical-spill>

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**From:** Weston, Richard C. (CDC/OD/OADP)

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 8:30 AM

**To:** Key, Lou Ann (CDC/OD/OCS)

**Cc:** Hunter, Edward L. (CDC/OD/OADP); Chaney, Sascha (ATSDR/OA/OD); Neurath, Sue (ATSDR/DCHI/OD); Boyd, Sharon (CDC/OD/OADP); Fell, Tiffany K. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Doan, Stephanie (ATSDR/DCHI/OD); Werner, Lora S. (CDC epa.gov)

**Subject:** Sen Rockefeller letter to Dr Frieden--petition on Freedom Industries, Elk river site

Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV) has written Dr. Frieden to petition ATSDR to assess the public health effects resulting from exposure to the MCHM spill at the Freedom Industries storage tank site on the Elk River near Charleston, West Virginia. MCHM is 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, which is used to wash coal.

I have been in touch with Ahaviah Diane Glaser and Megan Sussman on his staff regarding ATSDR, its authorities, and petitions.

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